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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Classification

Control: 11652

ETR

Rec'd: November 20, 1958
5:24 p.m.

Info

FROM: Bonn

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 1081 November 20, 8 p.m.

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PRIORITY

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1081 REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 292,
MOSCOW 111, LONDON 194, PARIS 295

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ALSO SENT USAREUR HEIDELBERG 232 VIA OTHER MEANS

SCA

OPR

Reference: DEPTTEL 1002, November 14.

DC

IRC

DCL

1. Subject concurrence governments, Embassies agreed following draft statement for release to press and NATO in event GDR personnel replace Soviets at checkpoints:

TOP

OC

"1. (Factual statement of what occurred).

CLA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

2. In accordance with procedures previously agreed between three powers, US (British, French) train commander showed East German official, under protest, passengers' travel documentation hitherto shown Soviet checkpoint officials,

1.e., allied movement orders issued by US (British, French) authorities (and the identity documents).

3. Showing of these documents to East German officials in no way implies recognition of so-called "GDR", nor does it constitute acceptance of any right of East German officials over allied access to Berlin.

4. A protest is being sent to (Soviet Ambassador in East Berlin) (Soviet Government) making clear that three powers continue to hold Soviet Government responsible for maintenance of free access to Berlin, and that no hindrance to this access will be tolerated."

PERMANENT

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-2- 1081, November 20, 8 p.m., from Bonn

2. Above based on draft we submitted which contained also following sentence at end paragraph 3: "Three powers consider that in replacing Soviet checkpoint officials, East German personnel are merely acting as agents of Soviet authorities with whom rest the responsibilities assumed under four power agreements." French objected to this on grounds it gives GDR opportunity say they not agents, thus putting us in difficult position; or to agree they are agents and as such can exercise all functions of Soviets, which also disadvantageous to us. British agreed. We reserved position on deletion quoted sentence pending receipt Department's views. Department may recall that reference to "agent" theory was dropped during revision JICOM/P(54)5 for more or less same reasons now advanced by French for not including reference to it in press statement.

3. It was agreed recommend statement be released to press by Embassies and Berlin missions if GDR personnel appear at checkpoints. Bracketed sentences in paragraph 4 designed provide for protest at Moscow if before then Soviet Ambassador East Berlin has disclaimed all responsibility, thus making further protests to him futile.

4. We unclear from final paragraph Department's reference telegram whether draft statements desired also for other contingencies envisaged in tripartite policy paper, i.e., demands for GDR visas, customs inspection, etcetera. British and French thought these difficult prepare in advance and in any event not necessary because if train or autobahn travellers turned back rather than submit to these demands, facts would speak for themselves, unlike acceptance GDR personnel which requires explanation.

TRIMBLE

TJM/7

Note: Advance copy to Mr. Hillenbrand (GER) 11/20-6:15 p.m. EH

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